

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

CONSECRATED TALENTS.

M., May 1. The teaching talent. 1 Tim. 4:6-16.
 T., May 2. The witnessing talent. 1 Cor. 9:16-27.
 W., May 3. Varying talents. 1 Pet. 4:7-11.
 T., May 4. Trade talents. Exod. 31:1-11.
 F., May 5. Consecrated gold. 1 Tim. 6:17-21.
 S., May 6. Entire consecration. 1 Thess. 5:23-24.
 Sun., May 7. Topic—The Consecration of Talents.
 Matt. 25:14-30. (Consecration meeting).
*What talent may we consecrate?
 Our responsibility for endowments.
 How may we make opportunities to serve?*

Talent: As used in the Scriptures is a measure of money, a certain weight. A talent of silver was worth about \$2,000, one of gold about \$50,000. In modern use the word is employed to designate any ability for service which a person may have. This usage comes from the parable in Matt. 25:14-30, where the master entrusts a certain number of talents to each of his servants to be used for him. It happened in this case that what the master wanted his servants to use was their ability to invest profitably the money he entrusted them with. It would have been the same thing if he had directed them to use the labor of their hands for his benefit.

Different Abilities: In the parable each man was not given the same amount but "to every man according to his several ability."

The Master knew the ability of each and acted accordingly.

The reward was not in accordance with what the master had given, but in accordance with the faithfulness shown by the servant in the use of what had been committed to him. He who had received five and he who had received two talents were equally faithful, though they did not show the same results. That could not have been expected. But they received the same reward. Had he who received the one talent been as faithful his reward would have been as great as the others.

All Have Talents: There are some who say they have no talents, or such small talents that there is nothing that they can do for the Master. If this were true it would mean that the Creator in that case had made a failure. God created man and placed him on earth that he might serve his Creator. If any man is so constituted that he has no ability to serve, then his creation was a failure. Are you willing to say that God made a failure in creating you? Every man has some talent. Some people try to ease their consciences by saying in regard to some specific work presented to them, "I have no talent for it." Does he not mean that he does not believe he can do some great thing, and is unwilling to do a little work?

Different Talents: God does not give to all the same talents nor does he give to all the same number of talents. Each one should find out just what his talent is. The best way to do this is undertake to do as best you may whatever work God gives you to do. An earthly master may misjudge your ability and give you work to do for which you have no talent; but God never gives you anything to do, for which he does not give you the ability. Try faithfully to perform the next duty he assigns you and see if this is not true.

What are your talents? You only can find out. Go to God in prayer and ask His help in your investigation, but especially that He will help you in the use of what you have. Do not wait for some one else to point them out to you.

Some Talents: Among the talents that most Christians have are such as these: 1. Living for God. A life that is lived for God is a great blessing to others. A missionary in China had his mother living with him. She was old and made no attempt to learn the Chinese language. In their home they had a Chinese cook who knew no Eng-

lish. The missionary had tried again and again to win him to Christ. His efforts seemed to be in vain. But after awhile the cook asked to join the church. When asked what led him to this decision, he said it was the missionary's mother. Being reminded that she could not speak Chinese, and that he could not understand her language, he said that was true, but that he could understand her life. What a wonderful testimony.

2. Speaking for God. Many a man would be in the pulpit, who is not there, if he had obeyed God's call. But there are many ways to speak for him. Speak kindly and considerately to all. Speak words of comfort, encouragement and cheer to all. Speak words of invitation to the services of God's house. Speak the message of salvation to lost sinners. These things may be hard to do, but you are doing them for God.

3. Teaching for God. Teach in the Sunday-school of your church, if needed there. If not find some mission work to do. There is a plenty to be had for the seeking. Teach some soul to live a better Christian life. Teach some one the way to Christ the Saviour.

4. Singing for God. Sing to make your own soul and life happy. Sing to cheer others. Sing in the services of God's house. Because you are not a prima donna, do not say you cannot sing.

5. Attending the worship of God. In doing this you serve God by obeying His commands, by feeding your soul, by growing in grace, by setting an example to others, by encouraging others who attend especially the preacher or the leader of the service.

There are many other talents which you possess. Use them as soon as you discover them.

Talents Increase: As they are used talents increase in number and you increase in the ability to use them. He that was faithful in the use of little was made ruler over much.

Our Duty: Look for our talents, whether one or many; use them faithfully, patiently, persistently for God's glory.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS TO TITHE.

The Christian Endeavorers of the world have undertaken to raise this year \$1,000,000 for missions. This money is to be given through denominational channels. In the South one of the plans to aid in securing this fund is to be a week of tithing, May 22-28. The plan proposed is that each member of an endeavor society, who has a stated income, shall give one-tenth of what he receives that week. If he has no such income, he is asked to make an effort to do some special work that week, and give a part or all of the proceeds to this cause. It is said that this is awaking a good deal of interest. We are sure that, if all the Endeavorers with adopt this proposed plan, the results will be very fine.

It is probable that they will surprise themselves in the amount they will raise. They will also find what a pleasure it will be to have some definite plan about giving. It is to be hoped that they may all become so much pleased with systematic giving, that they will keep it up during the whole year.

Were all Christians to give one-tenth of their income to the Lord's service, there would never be any need for special appeals. There would be an abundance in the Lord's treasury to do many times the work that is now being done.

Instead of Christian people generally giving as much as one-tenth of their income, the church at large does not give one-fourth that amount.

May the Endeavorers set an example to the church in this respect, which may redound to the honor and glory of God.

ATHLETIC SUCCESS.

James Curran, the track trainer at the Mercersburg Academy, gives each boy on the track squad a copy of the following rules and instructions. These instructions will explain to a certain extent why Mercersburg Academy, during the past fifteen years, has won seventy championships, made three world's records, and furnished more than fifty captains of college and university teams. The rules are:

1. Don't use tobacco or chew gum. Smoking injures the athlete in three ways:

(a) It keeps the delicate linings of the nose, throat, and lungs inflamed, so that they are continually dry. This makes the runner short-winded.

(b) Tobacco is a direct irritant poison to the heart. Moreover, the carbon monoxide gas, the active poison in illuminating gas, formed by the slow burning of the tobacco, injures the blood corpuscles and interferes with the absorption of oxygen by the blood. Its effect is to weaken and irritate, making the heart beat too fast. Excessive use gives a "tobacco heart." This is a heart so poisoned by the use of tobacco that the owner is barely able to walk. A drug that can poison in this way the ordinary man must be fatal to successful work in the athlete who depends entirely on his heart.

(c) The use of tobacco interferes with digestion and upsets the stomach, and this disturbs the heart action.

2. Don't eat too fast or between meals. You have teeth so that you can chew your food well and relieve your stomach of any unnecessary work. If you chew your food thoroughly, you will have no stitch in the side which so many distance runners have. Eating between meals keeps your stomach from having the rest it ought to have. It is only a habit and a bad one at that. Three meals are enough in one day for anyone.

3. Don't study after study hours unless it is absolutely necessary.

Unless you get at least eight hours' rest and sleep, you will not be able to give of your best to the team. Do all your studying during study hours, and there will be no need to sit up studying until twelve and one o'clock in the morning.

4. Don't worry about your physical condition.

If you are not up to last year's form or not doing what you think you ought to, don't worry about it. Let the coach do that. Worry has killed many a man and has never done anyone any good. If you are not training as you should, you owe it to yourself and to your team to start training at once.

5. In the early spring always come on the track warmly clad. For the first two weeks wear underdrawers and sweaters. Always do a lot of warming up. Don't take any starting practice on a cold day, and always break away easily for the first few starts. Don't draw up too fast in your running but taper out—that is, if you are running fifty or sixty yards, don't come to a stop until you have reached about one hundred. When you have finished your training on the track, walk about a little. Don't sit down or lie about on the grass. Go direct to your dressing room. Don't stay under the shower too long, as too much water has a weakening effect. Always finish off with a cold shower.

6. Keep your classroom work up to passing mark. You will become ineligible by being in study hall. Get your conditions off. If you can run a hundred yards in nine seconds and have one condition, you will be of no good to the team. Any boy who feels that he cannot live up to these rules will please tell the coach now and save trouble later on.

7. Never forget that the race is not won until the tape is broken. Always fight hard but fair, as not only your own reputation but also that of your school is at stake.

THE SOUTHERN GIRL.

Some one has said that when God made the southern girl He sent His angel messengers through all the star-strewn realms of space to gather all there was of beauty and brightness, of enchantment, of glamour. When those angels had returned from their harvesting of beauty and threw down their glittering burdens at his feet, He began in their wondering presence the work of fashioning the southern girl. He wrought with the gold and gleam of the stars, shifting glories of rainbow hues and the pallid silver of a southern moon. He wrought with the crimson which swooned in the rose's rubbed heart, with the pure sweet snow which gleamed from the lily's petals and the fires and flames which flash and leap from jewel's depth. Then plunging deep into his own bosom, He took of the love which gleams there like some rare pearl beneath the wind-kissed waves of the summer sea, threw this into the form. He was fashioning, and all heaven veiled its face, for lo! He had wrought the southern girl.—Exchange.

CHINA'S LIGHTNING CHANGES HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT.

It appears that China is a republic again, in name at least. One-time President and late Emperor Yuan Shi Kai has decided to call himself plain "President" again. China's lightning changes, since the outbreak of the revolution, have been many and spectacular, some of them probably more seeming than real. Through them all the missionaries have gone right on with their work and Christianity has gained constantly in favor and influence.

Dr. S. H. Chester, corresponding secretary of the Committee of Foreign Missions, thus analyzes the situation in a recent statement:

"Some facetious writer remarks that China is perhaps the only great country in the world which could pass from a monarchy to a republic and then back from a republic to a monarchy without the masses of the people knowing that any such things had taken place. The trouble is that the great majority of the people of China are occupied with a terrific struggle to provide themselves with three meals of rice a day. They have no time to devote to political affairs. It will be many years before the progress of general education and intelligence can possibly fit them for taking any real part in the government.

"There have been many conflicting views regarding the motives and character of Yuan Shi Kai. No one has any question as to his remarkable ability and force of character. Some believe him to be a genuine patriot who understands what his country needs better than any other man in it and whose handling of the situation is governed by the necessities of the case as these reveal themselves to him in the daily course of events. Others regard him as an unscrupulous despot, looking always to his own personal aggrandizement.

"But whatever one may think of the political situation, it is gratifying to know that our missionary opportunities have not been adversely affected by any of the changes that have taken place. We have access to more people and to more classes of people than we have ever had before. We believe this state of things will continue and that our opportunities in the future will constantly enlarge."

Who overcomes by force hath overcome but half his foe.—Milton.